proposal of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for construction of an airport of international standards at Shamshabad near Hyderabad.

Direct air service between Kolkata and Moscow

10. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to start a direct flight from Kolkata to Moscow keeping in view the traditional bonds of friendship between India and Russia;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the Air India is being directed to assess the viability of the flights; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Air India has at present no plan to start a direct flight from Kolkata to Moscow. Though Kolkata is available as a point of call for the designated airlines of Russia, the actual operations are left to the commercial judgement of the airline(s) concerned.

Rajkot-Delhi flight

11. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to start Rajkot-Delhi flight *via* Surat, Jaipur has been examined by Government;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to start; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Government has no such proposal.

(b) and (c) Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for airtransport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to